

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

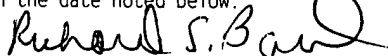


Serial No. : 09/974,511
Applicants : Masahiro KAWAKAMI et al.
Filed : October 10, 2001
For : SMELTING REDUCTION METHOD
Art Unit : 1742
Examiner : Melvyn J. Andrews
Docket No. : 00447CD/HG
Customer No.: 01933
Confirmation No.: 8922

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Attorney: Richard S. Barth

Dated: April 21, 2004

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

S I R :

Responsive to the Office Action mailed November 25, 2003 (Paper No. 15), the term for response to which is extended by two months by a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME filed concomitantly herewith to expire on April 25, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 8 of this paper and include attached replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing changes.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.

An Appendix, including amended drawing figures, is attached following page 15 of this paper.